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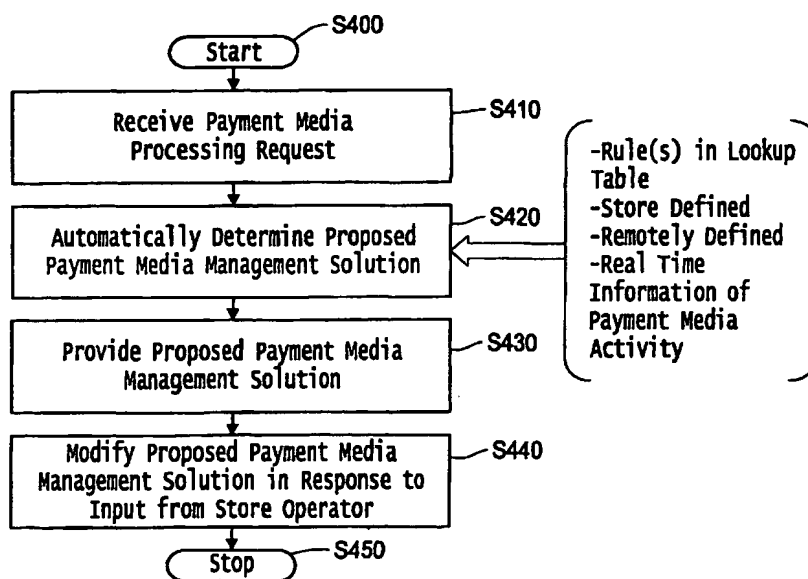
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PAYMENT AND MEDIA MANAGEMENT



(57) **Abstract:** This invention provides systems and methods that minimize or remove human intervention during the payment media handling process on the shop floor, in the back office and at the cash-in-transit place. By automating processes and providing physical, tamper evident secure means for transporting the payment media, it is possible to limit, if not remove, the need for retail staff to handle payment media. This invention also provides systems and methods that enable the retailer to count, reconcile and prepare the payment media in a format that is acceptable to the commercial banks. This invention further provides systems and methods for a secure audit trail that detail payment media movement from the payment media originating source to the bank.

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